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MORNING PAPERS .. SATURDAY, 27th APRIL, 1940
EVENING PAPERS .. SATURDAY, 27th APRIL, 1940

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT: MARCH QUARTER 1940.

The latest available statistics, from various sources, which offer some indication of the movement of Employment and Unemployment throughout Australia have been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

Employment in Factories. The number of persons employed in Australian factories in 1938-39 was 22.6% greater than in the pre-depression year of 1928-29, but was 1.4% less than in the year 1937-38. When the growth in employee population is taken into account, the 1938-39 index number was 8.7% greater than the 1928-29 index and 2.3% less than the index for 1937-38.

A comparison of factory employment in February, 1940 (the latest month for which figures are available for all States) with February, 1939, shows the following estimated percentage changes:- New South Wales, +4.0; Victoria, +4.6; Queensland, +0.9; South Australia, nil; Western Australia, -2.7; Tasmania, +2.9; Australia, +3.3 (or taking account of the growth of employee population, +2.2).

Employment in Retail Stores. The index number for Australia for the year 1938-39 indicates a 30% increase in employment since July, 1933 (the first date for which figures are available), and a 1.3% increase since 1937-38. When the growth of employee population is taken into account the increases are 22.5% since July, 1933 and 0.2% since 1937-38.

A comparison of employment in retail stores in February, 1940 (the latest month for which figures are available for all States) with February, 1939, shows the following estimated percentage changes:- New South Wales, +0.7; Victoria, -1.4; Queensland +0.9; South Australia, -1.8; Western Australia, +1.8; Tasmania, +5.3; Australia, +0.2 (or taking account of the growth of employee population, -1.0).

/MONTHLY

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS (a)

(Base: Average for year 1928-29 = 100).

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia						
																			Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population			
Number of Employees, 1928-29	M.129,539			M. 98,068			M.35,581			M.29,014			M.16,039			M.7,703			M.315,944			..			
	F. 44,581			F. 51,198			F. 7,855			F. 6,362			F. 3,760			F.2,281			F.116,037						
	T.174,120			T.149,266			T.43,436			T.35,376			T.19,799			T.9,984			T.431,981						
Index for 1926-27	..	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
	..	100	98	99	102	99	101	101	89	99	113	109	112	95	91	94	105	88	101	101.5	97.8	100.5	105.9	102.0	104.9
1927-28	..	99	97	98	100	98	100	101	92	99	106	106	106	98	97	98	107	104	106	100.4	97.8	99.7	102.5	99.8	101.7
1928-29	..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1929-30	..	90	91	90	96	98	97	95	94	94	87	89	87	94	98	94	105	99	104	92.4	94.6	93.0	91.0	92.9	91.5
1930-31	..	68	75	70	78	83	80	83	85	84	63	71	64	68	76	69	85	83	84	72.9	79.1	74.6	71.0	76.4	78.4
1931-32	..	66	79	69	77	90	81	78	84	79	61	76	64	61	75	63	84	87	85	70.4	84.1	74.1	67.7	80.0	71.0
1932-33	..	73	86	76	87	101	92	80	92	82	68	84	71	68	81	70	86	90	87	77.6	93.1	81.8	73.7	87.3	77.4
1933-34	..	82	94	85	96	107	100	86	99	88	77	89	80	75	85	77	93	89	92	86.1	99.4	89.7	80.8	92.0	84.0
1934-35	..	93	107	97	106	113	108	92	105	94	89	97	91	83	92	85	101	97	100	96.3	108.4	99.6	89.4	98.9	92.2
1935-36	..	104	116	107	117	119	117	97	110	99	104	110	105	99	106	100	112	103	110	107.0	116.2	109.4	98.4	105.0	100.2
1936-37	..	112	125	115	123	121	123	103	116	106	110	113	111	107	113	108	122	103	118	114.4	121.2	116.3	104.1	108.3	105.3
1937-38	..	121	134	124	131	126	130	112	123	114	120	121	121	110	116	111	130	108	125	122.9	128.0	124.3	110.7	113.0	111.3
1938-39	..	124	137	127	132	127	130	115	125	117	115	120	116	110	119	112	132	113	128	123.8	129.6	125.4	110.4	113.1	111.1
1938 - February	..	122	135	125	134	130	133	107	124	110	124	126	124	111	118	112	137	116	132	123.8	130.8	125.7	111.4	115.3	112.4
March	..	123	138	127	136	133	135	111	125	113	124	130	125	113	117	114	137	120	133	125.6	133.2	127.6	112.9	117.3	114.0
April	..	122	137	126	135	130	134	111	122	113	125	129	125	112	118	113	134	111	129	125.0	131.5	126.7	112.2	115.7	113.1
May	..	123	137	127	134	127	132	113	123	115	121	124	122	111	117	112	133	112	128	124.7	130.0	126.2	111.9	114.3	112.6
June	..	124	136	127	132	125	130	115	124	117	117	119	117	110	116	111	130	111	125	124.2	128.3	125.3	111.4	112.7	111.7

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS (a)

(Continued).

Period		New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia					
		M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population		
1938 - July (a)	..	122	134	125	130	124	128	115	118	115	112	109	111	109	117	111	128	112	124	122.0	126.1	123.1	109.3	110.6	109.6
August	..	124	137	127	129	125	128	120	121	120	109	116	110	109	117	111	129	113	125	123.1	128.5	124.5	110.2	112.6	110.8
September	..	124	138	127	130	127	129	122	124	122	113	120	114	109	119	111	127	107	122	123.8	130.2	125.5	110.7	114.0	111.6
October	..	124	140	128	132	128	131	119	130	121	114	122	115	110	120	112	130	105	124	124.6	131.9	126.6	111.3	115.4	112.4
November	..	124	140	128	133	129	132	116	126	120	116	122	117	111	120	113	131	101	124	125.0	131.7	126.8	111.6	115.1	112.5
December	..	123	139	127	133	126	131	119	127	121	115	120	116	112	121	114	131	104	125	124.7	130.2	126.2	111.3	113.7	111.9
1939 - January	..	122	129	123	130	118	126	107	122	109	119	123	120	109	118	111	137	118	133	122.0	122.5	122.2	108.8	106.9	108.2
February	..	123	136	126	132	129	131	109	127	112	121	123	121	110	120	112	140	131	138	123.8	131.0	125.7	110.3	114.2	111.2
March	..	125	139	128	133	132	133	111	130	114	121	128	122	110	119	112	138	120	134	124.9	133.6	127.3	111.2	116.3	112.6
April	..	124	138	127	132	130	131	111	125	114	118	120	118	110	118	111	137	126	134	124.0	131.7	126.0	110.3	114.6	111.3
May	..	124	137	127	133	127	131	116	127	118	115	112	116	110	121	112	131	114	129	124.6	129.8	126.0	110.7	112.8	111.2
June	..	124	136	127	131	125	129	115	125	117	111	122	113	108	120	110	129	108	124	123.5	128.2	124.8	109.7	111.3	110.1
July (b)	..	Not Available		124	123	121	122	117	118	118	111	116	111	104	119	107	125	107	121	119.5	125.1	120.9	105.9	108.5	106.5
August	..			124	123	122	123	118	121	119	112	118	113	105	120	107	126	109	122	119.7	126.8	121.5	106.1	109.9	107.0
September	..			126	124	125	125	121	125	122	110	124	112	101	122	105	128	105	123	120.2	130.4	122.9	106.5	112.9	108.1
October	..			129	130	130	130	125	129	126	111	129	114	104	126	108	134	107	128	123.9	134.5	126.7	109.7	116.3	111.3
November	..			131	131	136	133	123	132	124	112	131	116	107	126	110	139	111	133	124.7	139.4	128.7	110.3	120.5	113.0
December	..			133	131	133	132	119	132	121	116	129	118	107	127	111	140	114	134	125.7	138.6	129.2	111.1	119.6	113.3
1940 - January	..			131	130	145	135	107	123	110	118	135	121	107	123	110	141	108	133	122.7	144.5	128.6	108.3	124.6	112.7
February	..			131	134	143	137	109	129	113	117	139	121	107	120	109	147	124	142	124.8	143.5	129.9	110.1	123.6	113.7
Number of Factories in Sample		1901			100			150			147			92			49			2439					
Percentage of employees in sample in 1937-38		86			21			46			62			32			56			54					

(a) The indexes for 1938-39 have been computed on the basis of the 1937-38 final figures for Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania and on 1938-39 final figures for New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

(b) After June, 1939, indexes are based on sample returns, and male and female indexes for Australia are calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in the five States other than New South Wales for which State sample masculinity figures are not available.

MALES EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL PERSONS
EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Year	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	AUSTRALIA
1926-27	74.8	66.3	83.8	82.4	81.7	80.2	73.8
1927-28	74.8	66.2	83.2	82.0	81.2	77.6	73.6
1928-29	74.4	65.7	81.9	82.0	81.0	77.2	73.1
1929-30	74.1	65.1	81.9	81.7	80.3	78.2	72.7
1930-31	72.6	64.4	81.6	80.2	79.3	77.5	71.5
1931-32	70.7	62.1	80.8	78.6	77.6	76.6	69.5
1932-33	71.0	62.2	79.8	78.5	78.2	76.4	69.4
1933-34	71.5	63.2	79.7	79.8	78.9	77.9	70.2
1934-35	71.8	64.1	79.7	80.8	79.4	78.0	70.8
1935-36	72.2	65.3	80.0	81.2	80.1	78.6	71.5
1936-37	72.2	66.1	80.1	81.6	80.3	80.0	72.0
1937-38	72.4	66.6	80.6	81.9	80.2	80.3	72.3
1938-39	72.4	66.6	80.6	81.4	79.7	79.8	72.2
1938 -							
February ..	72.4	66.3	79.6	81.7	80.1	79.9	72.0
March ..	72.2	66.2	80.0	81.4	80.4	79.4	72.0
April ..	72.1	66.6	80.4	81.6	80.2	80.2	72.1
May ..	72.3	66.8	80.6	81.7	80.2	80.0	72.3
June ..	72.6	66.9	80.8	81.7	80.2	79.8	72.5
July (a) ..	72.5	66.8	81.5	82.3	79.9	79.4	72.5
August ..	72.4	66.4	81.8	81.1	79.9	79.3	72.3
September..	72.2	66.2	81.7	81.1	79.5	80.1	72.1
October ..	72.1	66.4	80.6	80.9	79.6	80.7	72.0
November ..	72.0	66.5	80.7	81.2	79.8	81.4	72.1
December ..	72.0	67.0	81.0	81.4	79.7	81.0	72.3
1939 -							
January ..	73.3	67.9	79.8	81.5	79.8	79.7	73.1
February ..	72.4	66.2	79.6	81.8	79.7	78.3	72.0
March ..	72.2	65.9	79.4	81.2	79.8	79.5	71.8
April ..	72.2	66.2	80.1	81.7	80.0	78.5	71.9
May ..	72.5	66.8	80.5	81.7	79.5	80.1	72.3
June ..	72.7	66.8	80.7	80.7	79.4	80.2	72.4
July (b) ..	n.a.	66.2	81.9	81.4	78.9	79.8	72.2
August ..	n.a.	65.9	81.5	81.2	78.9	79.7	72.0
September..	n.a.	65.5	81.4	80.2	77.9	80.5	71.5
October ..	n.a.	65.6	81.5	79.8	77.8	80.9	71.5
November ..	n.a.	64.9	80.3	79.7	78.3	80.8	70.9
December ..	n.a.	65.4	80.4	80.3	78.2	80.6	71.2
1940 -							
January ..	n.a.	63.3	79.3	79.9	78.8	81.5	69.6
February ..	n.a.	64.3	79.3	79.3	79.1	79.9	70.1

n.a. not available.

Note: This table has been revised to exclude working proprietors.

- (a) For 1938-39 the percentages are based on final figures for New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia and on estimates computed from returns from "sample" factories for Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania.
- (b) From July, 1939 the State percentages are based on estimates computed from returns from "sample" factories, while the percentage for Australia is calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in the five States, other than New South Wales, for which sample masculinity figures are not available.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES.

(Base: July, 1933 = 100).

Month		New South Wales	Victoria	Queens- land	South Aus- tralia	Western Aus- tralia	Tasmania	Australia	
								Unad- justed Index	Index di- vided by Index of Employee Population
Index for -									
1934-35	..	111	118	106	108	105	108	111.6	109.8
1935-36	..	118	130	109	114	110	112	119.4	116.2
1936-37	..	124	137	111	115	115	119	124.7	120.1
1937-38	..	130	141	112	115	116	118	128.3	122.2
1938-39	..	132	142	114	114	116	133	130.0	122.5
1938 -									
February	..	131	139	111	112	116	124	127.9	121.7
March	..	128	140	110	112	115	123	126.7	120.5
April	..	129	140	112	113	117	125	127.7	121.4
May	..	129	141	112	114	115	126	128.3	121.7
June	..	131	142	113	114	114	126	129.1	122.4
July	..	134	139	111	114	120	130	129.4	122.5
August	..	129	135	111	112	113	127	126.0	119.2
September	..	128	137	111	118	114	127	126.7	119.8
October	..	129	142	110	113	115	128	128.0	120.9
November	..	132	146	115	116	116	130	131.3	123.9
December	..	148	165	127	124	131	146	146.9	138.5
1939 -									
January	..	129	142	113	111	120	137	123.8	121.3
February	..	134	141	113	112	113	131	129.8	122.2
March	..	129	139	113	111	113	132	127.2	119.6
April	..	129	139	112	111	113	133	127.4	119.7
May	..	131	141	114	111	113	134	128.7	120.8
June	..	130	142	118	113	113	138	129.5	121.4
July	..	133	138	116	110	119	138	129.4	121.2
August	..	129	137	114	109	114	134	126.8	118.7
September	..	129	137	114	112	111	133	126.7	118.4
October	..	130	141	114	109	111	135	128.1	119.7
November	..	133	147	117	111	113	139	131.6	122.9
December	..	148	165	131	127	125	154	147.8	137.9
1940 -									
January	..	132	144	117	111	118	144	130.9	122.0
February	..	135	139	114	110	115	138	130.0	121.0
Number of establishments now furnishing returns		599	102	120	35	69	14	939	939

INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES
AND QUEENSLAND.

Working from the basis of the results of the Census of 30th June, 1933, and from compilations made from returns of employers in remitting wages tax and returns collected from Government Departments, the Government Statistician of New South Wales has prepared an index of employment and unemployment covering all persons dependent on employment in New South Wales. The Director of the Bureau of Industry of Queensland publishes a table compiled from census results, unemployed insurance contributions, workers' compensation records, and shop and factory returns. The table gives a comprehensive statement of all persons in work (other than relief work) in Queensland, whether as employees, employers, or independent workers. A full percentage of unemployment, covering the whole working population, is also shown; this percentage can be defined as the ratio of the number of persons seeking and capable of work and not in work, to the total of the working population.

Percentages of Employment and Unemployment - All
available wage-earners.

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment			
	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of all part-time relief workers		(b) Including all part- time relief workers as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Census of 30th June, 1933	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1936 - June ..	89.3	10.7	87.1	12.9
1937 - June ..	93.5	6.5	92.3	7.7
1938 - June ..	96.1	3.9	95.1	4.9
1939 - February ..	94.4	5.6	93.3	6.7
March ..	94.2	5.8	93.2	6.8
April ..	94.6	5.4	93.5	6.5
May ..	94.3	5.7	93.3	6.7
June ..	93.7	6.3	92.6	7.4
July ..	93.8	6.2	92.7	7.3
August ..	93.5	6.5	92.4	7.6
September ..	94.0	6.0	93.0	7.0
October ..	95.0	5.0	94.1	5.9
November ..	95.4	4.6	94.6	5.4
December ..	96.1	3.9	95.4	4.6
1940 - January ..	94.4	5.6	93.6	6.4
February ..	95.1	4.9	94.4	5.6

The indexes were revised in November, 1937. In estimating the increase in the number of persons dependent on employment allowance is now made for (a) increase in the proportion of females who are wage-earners, and (b) youths who were without occupation but were not recorded in the wage-earning group at the Census of 1933. Adjustment for seasonal variations in employment is not made except in respect of casual retail employees in December. At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc. or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners, employed and unemployed. The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 689,000 in June, 1938; 679,000 in June, 1939; and 707,000 in February, 1940.

QUEENSLAND.

Numbers in Work and Percentages of Unemployment.

Period	Numbers in Work				Percent- age of Unemploy- ment
	Employers and Work- ers on Own Account	Employees	Working for No Wages	Total	
Average -					
1926-27 ..	83,000	212,900	8,900	304,800	9.4
1927-28 ..	84,600	212,400	9,000	306,000	10.1
1928-29 ..	86,300	204,400	9,100	299,800	13.0
1929-30 ..	88,000	202,800	9,200	300,000	13.6
1930-31 ..	89,700	190,000	9,300	289,000	17.7
1931-32 ..	91,400	181,300	9,400	282,100	20.3
1932-33 ..	93,100	184,600	9,400	287,100	19.4
1933-34 ..	94,700	194,700	9,600	299,000	17.3
1934-35 ..	96,800	214,500	9,700	321,000	13.0
1935-36 ..	98,900	223,500	9,900	332,300	11.7
1936-37 ..	100,900	234,500	10,100	345,500	10.0
1937-38 ..	103,000	245,800	10,300	359,100	8.3
1938-39 ..	105,100	257,700	10,500	373,300	6.3
Three months ended -					
July, 1939 ..	106,100	265,800	10,500	382,400	4.7
August, " ..	106,200	263,500	10,600	380,300	5.3
September, " ..	106,400	260,500	10,600	377,500	6.1
October, " ..	106,600	259,400	10,600	376,600	6.5
November, " ..	106,800	259,800	10,600	377,200	6.4
December, " ..	106,900	259,000	10,600	376,500	6.7
January, 1940 ..	107,100	263,300	10,600	381,000	5.8
February, " ..	107,300	266,900	10,600	384,800	5.0

The foregoing table, compiled by the Queensland Bureau of Industry from census results, unemployed insurance contributions, workers' compensation records, and shop and factory returns, replaces that formerly published herein. It should be noted that the table covers the whole of the working population.

The figures for three-monthly periods have been corrected for seasonal variation.

TASMANIA: EMPLOYMENT.

The following table compiled from the wages tax returns of private employers in respect of their employees, whether subject to or not subject to tax, and from returns of Commonwealth, State and Local Government employment, gives the best measure available of the course of total employment in Tasmania.

Period	Private Industry			Public Authorities			Total Employment Public and Private		
	Males	Fe- males	Total	Males	Fe- males	Total	Males	Fe- males	Total
1936-37	30,858	9,522	40,380	10,798	1,763	12,561	41,656	11,285	52,941
1937-38	34,001	10,685	44,686	10,581	1,825	12,406	44,582	12,510	57,092
1938-39	37,021	11,996	49,017	10,486	1,877	12,363	47,507	13,872	61,380
1938-39 -									
October	35,505	11,365	46,870	10,701	1,879	12,580	46,206	13,244	59,450
November	36,758	11,577	48,335	10,561	1,879	12,440	47,319	13,456	60,775
December	37,551	12,188	49,739	10,728	1,843	12,571	48,279	14,031	62,310
January	38,094	13,061	51,155	10,249	1,787	12,036	48,343	14,848	63,191
February	38,523	12,662	51,185	10,624	1,893	12,517	49,147	14,555	63,702
March	40,816	13,428	54,244	10,637	1,903	12,540	51,453	15,331	66,784
April	38,913	12,355	51,268	10,167	1,895	12,062	49,080	14,250	63,330
May	37,951	12,003	49,954	10,111	1,911	12,022	48,062	13,914	61,976
June	36,052	11,695	47,747	10,208	1,925	12,133	46,260	13,620	59,880
1939-40(a) -									
July	36,769	11,473	48,242	10,100	1,948	12,048	46,869	13,421	60,290
August	36,976	11,496	48,472	10,317	1,958	12,275	47,293	13,454	60,747
September	36,942	11,650	48,592	10,384	1,950	12,334	47,326	13,600	60,926
October	37,743	11,721	49,464	10,665	1,948	12,613	48,408	13,669	62,077
November	38,482	12,190	50,672	10,672	1,963	12,635	49,154	14,153	63,307
December	39,605	13,208	52,813	10,960	1,955	12,915	50,565	15,163	65,728
January	41,532	13,763	55,295	10,828	1,865	12,693	52,360	15,628	67,988
February	41,261	13,072	54,333	11,059	1,961	13,020	52,320	15,033	67,353

(a) See Note 2 below.

1. For periods up to and including June, 1939, the figures in the table may be regarded as providing a virtually complete record of total employment. They are a combination of monthly figures received currently and annually, covering both private and public employment. They are deficient only to the inappreciable extent that some relief and other intermittent workers and domestic workers in private homes are not covered by the monthly returns. On the other hand, to the extent that they embrace the majority of workers subject to intermittent employment over the whole year, they reflect fully the seasonal and all other influences upon employment in Tasmania.

2. For the months of 1939-40 the figures are estimates based upon the current monthly movements of all public authority employment and of about 44 per cent. of total private employment. For a given month the figure of total private employment of the corresponding month of the previous year is changed in the ratio of the change of the current figure of private employment. The indication of the position for all employment in Tasmania given by this technical procedure must be read in the light of other indications of current change.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

QUARTER ENDED MARCH, 1940.

The figures relating to unemployment among members of Trade Unions are, similarly to those published in the past, derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The percentages of recorded unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for Australia as a whole are given below for the June quarter of 1932, when unemployment was at its maximum and for each quarter from March, 1935 onwards -

AUSTRALIA.

1932 - June quarter	..	30.0 per cent.
1935 - March quarter	..	18.6 per cent.
June "	..	17.8 " "
September "	..	15.9 " "
December "	..	13.7 " "
1936 - March quarter	..	13.4 per cent.
June "	..	12.8 " "
September "	..	12.0 " "
December "	..	10.7 " "
1937 - March quarter	..	9.9 per cent.
June "	..	9.7 " "
September "	..	9.3 " "
December "	..	8.2 " "
1938 - March quarter	..	8.0 per cent.
June "	..	8.6 " "
September "	..	9.2 " "
December "	..	8.9 " "
1939 - March quarter	..	9.8 per cent.
June "	..	9.7 " "
September "	..	10.4 " "
December "	..	9.5 " "
1940 - March quarter	..	8.1 per cent.

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of February, 1940.

Following the peak point (30 per cent.) in unemployment attained in the June quarter of 1932 the percentage dropped continuously to 8 per cent. in the March quarter of 1938, the lowest figure since August, 1927, when it was 6.7 per cent. After March, 1938, the index rose with minor fluctuations to 10.4 per cent. in the September quarter, 1939, but it has fallen appreciably during each of the last two quarters.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

AUSTRALIA.

Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting and Number and Percentage of Unemployed. March quarter, 1929 to March quarter, 1940.

Australia	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	March Quarter 1939	June Quarter 1939	September Quarter 1939	December Quarter 1939	March Quarter 1940
Number of Unions ..	375	396	394	395	395	395	392	394
Membership ..	420,304	413,272	415,059	475,378	478,250	479,103	479,348	484,907
Unemployed -								
Number ..	39,159	123,948	106,502	46,611	46,249	49,954	45,319	39,373
Percentage ..	9.3	30.0	25.7	9.8	9.7	10.4	9.5	8.1

STATES.

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions Reported as Unemployed
in each State: March quarter, 1929 to
March quarter, 1940.

State	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	March Quarter 1939	June Quarter 1939	Septem- ber Quarter 1939	Decem- ber Quarter 1939	March Quarter 1940
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales ..	9.7	33.2	29.6	11.0	11.1	12.1	11.6	10.2
Victoria ..	8.6	27.7	23.0	10.8	10.4	11.2	9.0	6.5
Queensland..	7.1	19.9	15.6	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8
South Australia ..	13.2	35.2	30.0	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.1	8.5
Western Australia ..	8.5	30.3	26.0	7.3	6.2	8.2	6.6	6.9
Tasmania (a) ..	10.9	27.5	18.4	7.6	9.4	8.3	7.1	4.8
<u>Australia:</u>	9.3	30.0	25.7	9.8	9.7	10.4	9.5	8.1

(a) Revised Series. These percentages, which replace those published prior to March quarter, 1939, are based on the returns of reporting unions after excluding certain females from Class III (Food, drink, etc.). The females excluded, although substantially all employed from January to March, are for the rest of the year not "unemployed" in the sense that they are seeking jobs unsuccessfully in their own industry. They are either employed in other occupations (e.g. paid domestic service) or are engaged in home duties.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act, 1905-1938.

ROLAND WILSON

Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

Canberra, A.C.T. 26th April, 1940.